

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI IMMEDIATE NIACT

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, OREP, TH

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

SUMMARY: TRAWLERS AND CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS WERE THE TOPICS THAT CODEL WOLFF HAD THE MOST QUESTIONS ABOUT DURING ITS AUGUST 13 MEETINGS WITH MISSION ELEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS IN THAILAND. BRIEFINGS WERE PROVIDED ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DRUG SITUATION IN THAILAND, BUT STIMULATED LESS RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

### 1. TRAFFICKING

A. TRAWLERS. THE CODEL WAS INTERESTED IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE ON THE RECENT DISRUPTION OF TRAWLER-BORNE TRAFFICKING. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT IT WANTED EVIDENCE THAT THE RECENT TRAWLER SEIZURES HAD DISRUPTED THE FLOW OF DRUGS TO HONG KONG. WE ANSWERED THAT (1) THE PRICE OF HEROIN HAD RECENTLY RISEN IN HONG KONG, (2) HONG KONG POLICE HAVE SAID THAT NO TRAWLERS HAVE ARRIVED WITHIN THE LAST SEVEN WEEKS, (3) INFORMANTS TELL US THAT RECENT SEIZURES HAVE GENERATED SUSPICION AMONG THE TRAFFICKERS AND (4) A KNOWN SMUGGLER WAS RECENTLY KILLED, PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF THERE INTERNAL SQUABBLES. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY RETURNED

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TO THE LINE THAT EVEN IF THE TRAWLERS WERE NOT MOVING,

NARCOTICS MUST BE GETTING THROUGH SOMEHOW SINCE THERE IS OPIUM IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND A LARGE ADDICT POPULATION IN HONG KONG. THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE DOUBTED THAT MUCH OPIUM WAS IN FACT BEING SHIPPED AT THE PRESENT TIME TO HONG KONG AND SPECULATED THAT THE COLONY MIGHT BE LIVING OFF STOCKS ACCUMULATED EARLIER. TAKING THE LONG VIEW, THE ATTACHE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT TRAFFICKERS COULD DEVELOP ALTERNQATIVE OVERLAND ROUTES THROUGH BURMA WITH AN EVENTUAL DESTINATION OF SINGAPORE. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN SUCH ROUTES. HE SPECULATED THAT TRAFFICKERS WOULD THEN TRY TO USE MERCHANT SHIPPING OUT OF SINGAPORE OR ELSEWHERE.

B. CARAVANS. THE EMBASSY BEIEFED THE CODEL ON RECENT THAI STRIKES AGAINST CARAVANS, BUT THE CODEL DID NOT ASK ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS. THE CODEL, HOWEVER, CAN BE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY IN CHIANG MAI.

C. LO HSING-HAN. THE CODEL ASKED WHAT HAD BEEN THE EFFECT OF THE ARREST OF LO HSING-HAN UPON TRAFFICKING. WE ANSWERED THAT LO'S ARREST WAS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE DISSENSION IN TRAFFICKING CIRCLES, AND THAT CARAVAN TRAFFICKERS IN NORTHERN THAILAND WERE PARTICULARLY DISCOMFORTED.

2. CROP SUBSTITUTION. THIS IDEA SPARKED THE CODEL'S INTEREST BUT TIME PRECULDED A DETAILED MISSION OR UNITED NATIONS'S REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATION. THE CODEL ASKED WHETHER INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES, SUCH AS HEALTH BENEFITS, ROADS, OR CLEAN WATER, COULD BE PROVIDED TO THE HILLTRIBESMEN TO GET THEM TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND STOP GROWING OPIUM. THE CODEL SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT INCOME SUBISITUTION ALONE WOULD NOT WORK IF, WITH AN OPIJM SHORTAGE, TRAFFICKERS BEGAN TO PAY MORE FOR OPIUM THAN THETRIBESPEOPLE COULD EARN FROM SELLING SUBSTITUTE CROPS. ONE OF THE UN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PURSUING A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCOME SUBSTITUTION, AND POLICE ENFORECMET AGAINST OPIUM TRAFFICKERS AND VILLAGERS WHO CONTINUE TO PURSUE OPIJM GROWING. THE CODEL MENTIONED SUCCESSFUL CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS IN YUNNAN PROVINCE OF CHINA, AND ASKED WHETHER THE RESULTS OF THE CHINESE PROGRAMS COULD BE APPLIED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ONE OF THE UN REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENCES IN GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS.

3. LOCATIONS OF LABORATORIES. THE CODEL RAISED THIS QUESTION HERE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE IT AGAIN. WE ANSWERED THAT WE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY LABORATORIES THERE WERE IN THE BANGKOK AREA BUT WHEN WE DID GET INFORMATION ON LABORATORIES WE PASSED TO THETHAI. WE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE THAI POLICE HAVE RECENTLY CONDUCTED RAIDS ON TWO LABORATORIES IN THE BANGKOK AREA.

4. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS. CODEL WOLFF WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE PRESENTATION OF CHIT POSAYANOND. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE UNITED NATIONS EXPAND ITS PROGRAM.

5. U.S. MILITARY DRUG PROBLEM. CODEL WOLFF ASKED WHETHER U.S. SERVICEMEN WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING AND WE POINTED OUT THE CLEARING PROCEDURES FOR SERVICEMEN AND THEIR PERSONNEL EFFECTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE U.S. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE APO SYSTEM HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DETECTING A NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS TO SEND NARCOTICS INTO THE STATES. CODEL WOLFF ALSO ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DRUG USAGE RATE, AND PARTICULARLY, PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO RETURN THE SERVICEMEN TO DUTY.

6. CODEL WOLFF HAD A LENGTHLY DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM BEFORE THE MEETING WITH MISSION ELEMENTS. TWO MAIN POINTS RAISED AT THAT TIME WERE ABOUT THE 26 TONS OF OPIUM THAT THE THAI POLICE BURNED IN CHIANG MAI, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE AERIAL SURVEY OF THE POPPY GROWING AREAS IN NORTHERN THAILAND. THE DCM HAS COVERED THESE AND SEVERAL OTHER ITEMS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER CHANNELS.  
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## Message Attributes

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